

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1649

SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILI, AWACS
SUBJECT: NATO AEW - DPC MEETING MARCH 23, 1977

REF: A. A. USNATO 1625 DTG 221810Z MAR 77.
B. USNATO 1627 DTG 221833Z MAR 77.
C. USNATO 1615 DTG 221510Z MAR 77.

SUMMARY: THE DPC APPROVED THE AGENDA (REF A) FOR THE MARCH
25 DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING AND ACCEPTED PO/77/46 (REF B)
AS A BASIS FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DPC MET TO FINALIZE PREPARATIONS FOR THE MARCH 25
DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING ON NATO AEW. SYG LUNS DISCUSSED
THE AGENDA (REF A) SAYING THAT HE WILL LEAD OFF WITH
BRIEF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, AFTER WHICH THE CHAIRMAN OF
CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WILL SPEND A FEW MINUTES REVIEWING
THE MILITARY REQUIREMENT FOR NATO AEW. ASYG LABERGE
WILL THEN EXPLAIN THE KEY ISSUES USING SEVERAL VIEW-
GRAPH CHARTS; LUNS SAID LABERGE WILL TAKE ABOUT 15
MINUTES FOR HIS PRESENTATION. THE MINISTERS WILL THEN
USE THE REMAINING TIME IN A GENERAL DISCUSSION, LUNS
SAID, TO ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE PROGRAM.

2. HARTOUH (NL) COMMENTED THAT THERE MAY BE SOME MERIT
TO USING THE RATHER LONGER AGENDA LABERGE HAD DISCUSSED

EARLIER (REF C). LUNS SAID HE WOULD RATHER STICK TO THE SHORTER AGENDA, COVERING SOME OF THE POINTS OF THE LONGER ONE IN HIS AND LABERGE'S OPENING REMARKS, BUT THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION IF MINISTERS USE THE LONGER VERSION TO PREPARE THEIR POSITIONS.

3. KILLICK (UK) SAID PO/77/46 (REF B) FORMS AN EXCELLENT BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AND THAT MINISTER MULLEY PLANNED TO DO A GREAT DEAL OF LISTENING TO OTHERS AT THIS MEETING. FREITAS-CRUZ (PORTUGAL), WHO WILL REPRESENT PORTUGAL ON MARCH 25 SINCE, HE SAID, HIS MINISTER CANNOT ATTEND THE MEETING, OBSERVED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE SOME RESERVATIONS ON THE COST SHARING FIGURES SHOWN IN THE DOCUMENT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT CORRESPOND TO EARLIER PORTUGUESE STATEMENTS. LUNS ACCEPTED THIS FACT SAYING THAT ALL MINISTERS WILL BE FREE TO STATE WHATEVER POSITIONS THEY WANT NOW OR ON MARCH 25. START (DENMARK) ALSO SAID HE WOULD REPRESENT HIS MINISTER.

4. HARDY (CANADA) QUESTIONED LUNS ON THE MECHANICS OF COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING. LUNS SAID HE WILL HAVE HIS STAFF DRAFT A COMMUNIQUE WHICH CAN BE DISCUSSED DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE MINISTERIAL. HE WILL ALSO ISSUE A SHORT COMMUNIQUE ON MARCH 24, INFORMING THE PRESS THAT THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE, ITS PURPOSE AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTENDEES AS HE KNOWS THEM AT THAT TIME.

5. HARTOGH RAISED TWO QUESTIONS ON PO/77/46: (1) WAS THE ASSUMPTION THAT FRANCE WOULD PAY A SHARE OF GROUND ENVIRONMENT, FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS A HYPOTHESIS OR BASED ON SOME FRENCH COMMITMENT? (2) DO THE OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT (O&S) COSTS INCLUDE PERSONNEL COSTS? LABERGE ANSWERED THE FIRST, BY SAYING THAT THE ASSUMPTION IS A HYPOTHESIS BASED ON THE EARLIER FRENCH REQUEST FOR A PROPOSITION ON PARTICIPATION IN THE OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM. HE ALSO SAID THAT DIRECT PERSONNEL COSTS ARE INCLUDED IN O&S COSTS AND THAT, BASED ON A REQUEST AT THE LAST FINANCIAL EXPERTS MEETING, THESE COSTS ARE NOW BEING VERIFIED.

6. KIRCA (TURKEY) MADE CLEAR HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT IF GREECE PARTICIPATES IN THE DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING, THAT PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE ON AN AD HOC BASIS AND SHOULD NOT ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT. LUNS SAID THAT IF HE IS TOLD GREECE WILL BE REPRESENTED, HE WILL BE SURE TO MAKE THE SITUATION CLEAR TO ALL.

7. SCHUURMANS (BELGIUM) INFORMED THE DPC THAT THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL BELGIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON

MARCH 24 TO PREPARE HIS MINISTER'S POSITION.

8. LUNS CLOSED THE MEETING SAYING THAT DUE TO REQUESTS
HE HAD RECEIVED THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WILL BEGIN AT
1100 HOURS RATHER THAN 1030 HOURS. HE SAID SOME
MINISTERS APPARENTLY HAVE MATTERS TO ATTEND TO BEFORE
THE MEETING. STRAUSS-HUPE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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